



Choose Chorley - Business E-Bulletin (August 2017)

Boost – Lancashire’s Business Growth Hub

Boost is Lancashire’s Business Growth Hub, whose purpose is to help Lancashire’s businesses grow. Through Boost, Chorley businesses from start-ups to large companies can access a number of funded programmes in areas such as mentoring, product development, leadership development, and access to finance. Chorley Council has signed up as a Boost and Co. Partner to help promote the services available and refer businesses for growth support. Founded in 2013, Boost has already helped over 2,400 business grow, creating over 1,200 jobs. Boost is backed by the ERDF and led by the Lancashire LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) and Lancashire County Council.

Further information: click [Boost website link here](#)

Lancashire Skills and Employment Hub

Funding to upskill your workforce with accredited qualifications through the European funded **Skills Support for the Workforce** programme is now available and offers businesses the benefits of increased productivity; fully funded training (subject to eligibility); improved customer service; improved succession planning/staff retention and flexible delivery to minimise business impact.

Further information: click [Workforce Skills website link here](#)

If your business is looking to recruit staff, the **Access to Employment Programme** offers the benefit of bespoke, funded pre-employment training linked to *your* recruitment needs; support with recruiting an apprentice and support for apprentices during their first 3 months.

Further information: click [Access to Employment website link here](#)

Central Lancashire Business Networking Event

SAVE THE DATE for the 11th annual **Central Lancashire Business Event**, jointly organised by Chorley, Preston and South Ribble Councils. Central Lancashire’s biggest networking and learning event will again be hosted by Mike Ode of Potential Unearthed, with keynote speaker **Kate Hardcastle**, an in-demand consultant advising businesses on how to reach more customers and transform the customer experience. Kate is a regular contributor/industry commentator on Sky News and the BBC, also featuring in trade publications, working with many major household brands such as Silentnight.

Date: Tuesday 3rd October 2017 5.30pm to 8.30pm

Venue: The Invincibles Lounge, Preston North End, Deepdale Road, Preston

Book: On [Central Lancashire Business Events website](#) – click link [here](#)

Digital Office Park

Work is progressing on Chorley’s Digital Office Park with the design works phase due to be finalised by the end of August. The main contractor will then be procured to undertake the construction of this prestigious new development, with work on site commencing in November 2017, for completion in late 2018. The project is part-ERDF funded and being led by Chorley Council, putting Chorley and Lancashire at the centre of the expanding digital economy. The Strawberry Fields Digital Hub will provide 5,000m² of office space over 3 floors with areas for start-up accommodation and established businesses. Business support will be provided by an on-site qualified business advisor and a university researcher providing links to academia. The project aims to provide business support to 80 businesses and create 270 new jobs.

Contact: Initial enquiries to the Council’s Economic Development team on 01257 515300

Further information on the [business support provided by Chorley Council](#), which includes the latest business events calendar, business directory, property search, funding solutions and business advice, can be found [here](#)

The Strawberry Fields Digital Hub, Chorley



For more information visit [choosechorley.co.uk](https://www.choosechorley.co.uk)